



Recalling the last 12 months

Relive the highs and lows of Halifax in 2012 as captured by Metro photographers PAGES 6 & 7

APOCALYPSE NOW AND THEN

YET ANOTHER END-OF-DAYS PREDICTION — WHO'S PROFITING FROM THE DOOMSDAY BOOM?

PAGES 16 & 17



HALIFAX

metro

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Thursday, December 20, 2012



News worth sharing.

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IN THE HOT SEAT

Halifax Mayor Mike Savage sat down with Metro Halifax this week for an informal year-end chat in his office at city hall. Savage talks about his two months in office, and what he'll be looking to get done in 2013. Story, page 4. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Winter weather hits roads

Snow job. Tow-truck dispatcher says people "lose it" when first flakes fall

The first significant snowfall of the season drove more than a few cars off the road Wednesday — and Darlene Jordan isn't surprised.

"Not even a little bit," said the 52-year-old office manager and dispatcher for A-1 Towing.

"Nobody seems to slow down for the conditions. It's like this every year.... People just kind of lose it."

While those outside the city core like Mount Uniacke and Timberlea shovelled their driveways of the heavy, wet snow, Halifax and Dartmouth remained mostly in a rainy bubble.

According to police, the messy roads resulted in over 15 accidents throughout the day on Wednesday, including a multiple-car pileup on Hammonds Plains Road and an overturned vehicle on Larry Uteck Boulevard by Highway 102.

Winter-parking ban

HRM put into effect the overnight winter-parking ban on Wednesday for the first time this season due to the snowfall.

Const. Pierre Bourdages of Halifax Regional Police said there were "thankfully" no serious injuries reported as of 4 p.m.

Jordan said A-1's phone was ringing every 30 seconds on Wednesday with people requesting tow trucks — some having to wait an hour for them to make it through.

She said their trucks had responded to roughly 40 calls by the early afternoon. "We've had quite a few going in ditches, a few hitting curbs," Jordan said.

Environment Canada was forecasting up to 10 centimetres of snow for parts of HRM by late Wednesday evening. Thursday's forecast is calling for clouds with some sun.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



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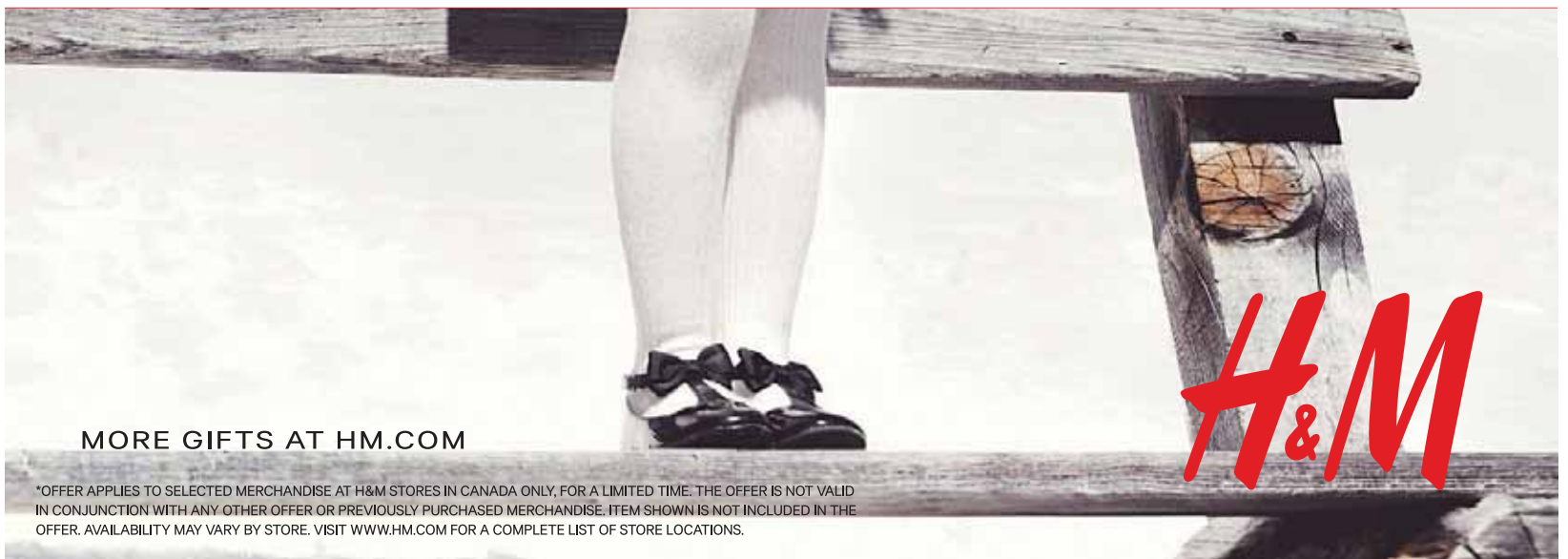
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Councillors resist tax-hike plan

Money matters. HRM staff propose budget based on 2.4 per cent increase to average bill, but tax rate could still fall



RUTH DAVENPORT
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Some members of the city's audit and finance committee were hesitant about letting budget planning proceed based on an increase to the average residential tax bill.

Fiscal and tax-policy manager Bruce Fisher told the committee Wednesday the proposal is to increase the average tax bill by a total of 2.4 per cent.

That works out to about \$40 on a single-family home with a capped assessment.

Coun. Russell Walker tabled the motion to allow staff to proceed with the first phase, saying preliminary information

Myth busting?

"One of the myths destroyed today is that urban commercial pays more (taxes) than suburban and rural. I'm quite frankly sick of hearing that."

Coun. Barry Dalrymple

on property assessments suggests they're going up enough for the actual tax rate to fall.

"If you're on a capped assessment ... your taxes should go down 4.1 per cent to get the money we need to operate," he said. "The lift will be 6.5 per cent, but we only need (2.4)."

At Coun. Tim Outhit's request, staff agreed to also draw up a budget based on no increase to the average residential tax bill.

Fisher opened the budget overview with a review of HRM's commercial-taxation system, debunking several

common complaints, and making recommendations for an overhaul.

He said the city has "outgrown" the method of setting commercial tax rates established in 1997, and recommended tying the rate to GDP.

"We need something more transparent, more intuitive, easier to follow, that ties in better to the economy," he said.

Fisher also recommended investigating a small property rate and seeking legislative changes to base commercial taxes on the average of three years of assessments instead of one.

The assessment system in general came under fire from committee members, who suggested services received should be more of a factor.

"I think assessment is one of the most useless, problematic measures of nothing that we have," said Coun. Stephen Adams, saying he'll ask to eliminate the assessment method in the new year.

Unsolved mystery

Missing sculpture prompts review

The disappearance of part of a sculpture in the city's care led to a review of HRM's cultural collection that concluded it's not being properly looked after.

Auditor general Larry Munroe launched the review after learning the city can't account for a piece of a memorial sculpture by artist Jordi Bonet.

The sculpture was removed from outside the Halifax North Memorial Library in Sept. 2004, and by 2006 no one could account for the missing piece — worth up to \$100,000.

Munroe told the audit

and finance committee on Wednesday the same could potentially happen to HRM's thousands of pieces of art, stored in several facilities across the city, without a comprehensive catalogue or inventory of their condition.

"What else could be out there that HRM is not recognizing of great value and it's a loss to the taxpayers?" he said. "These pieces belong to everyone, let's get them on display, let's understand them and enjoy them."

Munroe has made six recommendations to formalize policies and procedures regarding the care, maintenance and divesting of its cultural assets. HRM administration has accepted all six recommendations.

METRO



Say it ain't snow

A police officer directs traffic around a three-car accident (one car not pictured) on Hammonds Plains Road near the Kearney Lake Road intersection on Wednesday. Many parts of HRM experienced icy road conditions, as well as snow, making driving treacherous. JEFF HARPER/METRO


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1 NEWS



JEFF HARPER/METRO

RUTH
DAVENPORT
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As 2012 draws to an end, Mayor Mike Savage says he's ready to start digging into the nuts and bolts of governing Nova Scotia's capital city. Metro Halifax met with Savage as he marked six weeks since his swearing-in to discuss what's ahead in the new year.

Now that you're settled in, what's your priority list?

We were looking today at issues like municipal alcohol policy, arts council, housing, issues of disability, cutting red tape in development, trying to decide how we go about doing all those things.

So I think priorities coming back after this will be the budget, economic development, issues like alcohol-policy sponsorship as well as ... understanding how we can reduce crime in this community.

You said during the campaign that you wanted to operate council as more of a board of directors, with fewer meetings. After six weeks in office, you're feeling confident about that?

Yes, I am. But I also said I'm one of 17, and I don't want to do anything that doesn't make sense.

So we need to have further discussion about the

MIKE SAVAGE

After six weeks on the job, the HRM mayor says he's up to speed and ready to kick off the new year with a focus on the 2013-14 budget, economic-development strategies, a municipal alcohol policy and a "refresh" on the task force on violence

EYE ON THE FUTURE

community councils and how empowered they are going to be. Are we going to use standing committees effectively, so that there is, in fact, more engagement, not less?

But the real serious discussion can happen there and then come back to council.

I've heard you say quite often that we need to "get out of our own way." You've mentioned "missed opportunities." What are you thinking about specifically?

I think that we come up with good ideas, and then I think we've allowed them to die

too easily.

I think the Commonwealth Games is one of those things. The convention centre took a long time, the stadium. We had what I thought was a really disappointing circumstance.

And then we haven't

followed our plans often enough. The Regional Plan was a good plan, but it kind of caught everyone off guard when we find that we didn't hit our targets for the centre.... So I think many times we've sort of gotten ourselves off track too easily.

Build a culture, and they will come

"If you have a community that works, that includes a stadium, a performing-arts centre that's world-class ... at the end of the day, the payoff is that people want to come here, they want to invest here, they want to live here."

Mayor Mike Savage

natural assets and built-up assets of this community that we could withstand a few risks.

How much, as leader of HRM, are you willing to insert yourself into these discussions to persuade or to spell out your vision to get people on board?

I think I've shown I'm willing to let people know where I stand on key issues. But I want people to know that I'm not arrogant enough to believe that I'm right all the time.

An example is the municipal alcohol policy, which is a really big topic of discussion. I don't know when bars should close. It bothers me that people have died on the streets of Halifax at four o'clock in the morning. But does that mean automatically that if we close the bars at two, that wouldn't be happening? I don't know. I want to learn about that.

So on issues where I think I can make a difference, I'll speak up. On things where I think we need a wider consultation, I'll encourage that.

I want to go back to the Commonwealth Games. Where's the breaking point for you in terms of the payoff? How do you balance the risk?

I never spent a huge amount of time going over the economics of the games. I supported the games at the time. I thought it made a lot of sense ... and absolutely there's a risk.

But you look at the folks who have really succeeded at stuff, they've made tough calls and they've stuck with them, and they've had the confidence to do so. And I just think that with all the

Exclusively online

To read the full interview with Mayor Mike Savage, go to metronews.ca.



In a year that saw an epic increase in viral videos, photography is still one of the most powerful ways we share and remember our major events. From tragic losses to Olympic memories, Halifax experienced it all this year. Here are some of our most remembered moments of 2012 as captured by our staff photographers.

METRO HALIFAX
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1 The walking dead.

A family eats lunch at Pizza Corner as a woman dressed up and in makeup takes part in the annual Halifax Zombie Walk in August. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

2 Paint it white.

Volunteers help to repaint Nova Scotia's iconic lighthouse at Peggy's Cove in August. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**



3

Halifax 2012: Year in photos



4

3 Petty awesome.

In May, legendary rocker Tom Petty took the stage to entertain a sold-out crowd at the Halifax Metro Centre. **RYAN TAPLIN**

4 Bronze is golden.

Youthful fans crowd around Mark de Jonge at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport for a chance to touch his bronze medal after his return from the London Olympics in August. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**



5



6

5 Close call for No. 1 team.

Halifax Mooseheads goaltender Zach Fucale deflects a shot from the Victoriaville Tigres in December. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

6 Collector's addition.

A Grumman Avenger aircraft purchased by the Shearwater Aviation Museum Foundation lands at 12 Wing Shearwater in July. The plane was added to their aviation collection. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**



7 Activist honoured.

Hundreds of people attended a vigil for Raymond Taavel in April after he was killed outside a bar. **RYAN TAPLIN**

8 Tall ships, high spirits.

Some of the all-female crew of the Unicorn tie up the sails after arriving for the Tall Ships festival this past August. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

9 Island view.

A cyclist is reflected in the Nova Scotia Power building, as he heads out for a ride on the Halifax waterfront. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

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when you put a vacuum cleaner
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School board struggles with overspending

Money matters. Schools over-shooting budget by hundreds of thousands, 'doing the best' they can to make sure classrooms aren't affected



ANDREW RANKIN
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Even on a shoestring budget, the Halifax Regional School Board is spending more than half a million dollars more than it forecast for the fiscal year.

The board released its

second-quarter budget figures Wednesday showing a \$555,900 deficit in teacher salaries. Up until September, the board was on pace to spend more than \$744,000 more than forecast on regular teacher hirings and north of \$247,000 on substitute teachers.

On the operations side the board is over-budget \$2.89 million, but that's offset by a projected \$2.25-million spike in revenue highlighted by \$1.2 million in additional provincial funding.

But that figure is a drop in the bucket since provincial government cuts have resulted in more than \$65 million being slashed from the

Board chair

"We're trying to go into upcoming budget meetings with a positive spirit.... We're hoping the province can respond to the demands on the education system."

School Board chair Gin Yee

education budget.

"I understand (there are) financial constraints on the province and that there has been a loss in enrolment, but we face challenges," said board chair Gin Yee. "We're

doing the best we can to make sure that the cuts don't affect the classroom."

Yee said the province has responded by providing more funding in September to balance the deficit in teaching expenditures.

But the province is currently running a deficit of \$277 million and pledges to present a balanced budget by spring. Yee said he's hoping the NDP government will realize the education budget can't endure more cuts.

"We're trying to go into upcoming budget meetings with a positive spirit. We're hoping the province can respond to the demands on the education system."

From falls to student assaults

Board concerned over spike in staff injuries

The Halifax Regional School Board says it's concerned about the dramatic increase in the number of its employees filling Worker's Compensation Board claims this fiscal year.

Between April 1 and the end of September, 81 claims had been lodged,

a sharp increase from the same period last fiscal year, according to the board's business plan released at Wednesday's meeting.

Figures for the last fiscal year were not provided.

The board is also concerned about the increase in medical costs associated with claims where there is no time loss. The board's director of human resources Mike Christie said the injuries range from falls to student assaults.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

DEC 21 & 22

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Crosswalks. Three more pedestrians struck in HRM

Three more pedestrians have been struck, including two on Wednesday morning, in marked crosswalks.

Just after 6:40 a.m. on Wednesday, police say a 54-year-old female was hit in a marked crosswalk by a Metro Transit bus travelling from Spring Garden Road to Summer Street. The woman suffered minor injuries and was treated on scene by paramedics.

A little over an hour later, police responded to another vehicle-pedestrian collision on Hawthorne and Portland streets in Dartmouth. A 19-year-old woman was hit in a marked crosswalk by a

Deaths

4

The number of people killed by vehicles in crosswalks this year.

vehicle travelling eastbound on Portland Street. She suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital.

On Tuesday evening just before 6 p.m., a 22-year-old man was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Portland Street and Manor Drive. He suffered minor injuries, while the driver fled the scene and hasn't been located. **METRO**

Police seize marijuana in drug bust

Three people face charges after police say they seized a large amount of marijuana.

Halifax Regional Police conducted a traffic stop on Lacewood Drive on Tuesday evening and arrested two men, after allegedly finding marijuana inside the vehicle.

Searches then later took place at homes on Walter Havill Drive in Halifax, Crozier Court in Bedford and Taranaki

Drive in Cole Harbour where police say they found more than 100 pounds of marijuana, 50 plants and grow-up equipment.

Quoc Nguyen, 49, and John Michael Church, 30, are each facing drug possession, trafficking and cultivation charges.

A 30-year-old woman was arrested after the Cole Harbour search and charged with cultivation of cannabis. **METRO**

No charges. Two released after questioning in Sheet Harbour murder case

The two people arrested on Tuesday in connection with a Sheet Harbour homicide case have been released without charges.

"The investigation is continuing," said RCMP spokesman Sgt. Alain LeBlanc, who added the man and woman arrested are still persons of interest.

"When we don't have the evidence to proceed with criminal charges we let them go."

On Tuesday, RCMP arrested a 45-year-old woman in Halifax and a 61-year-old man in Sheet Harbour, related to two deaths last week.

At the time, Cpl. Scott MacRae said any information on what led up to the arrests

could not be released.

He added because it's an ongoing investigation, details around the relationship between the victims and the two arrested can't be released.

Two men were found in the wreckage of a burned camp building in Sheet Harbour around 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 12. Two days later, police declared the case a homicide.

On Tuesday, police searched a home at 450 Herring Cove Rd., and another near where the bodies were found in Sheet Harbour.

Police have still not released many details on the investigation, such as the names of the victims or cause of death. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**



Police searched this Herring Cove residence in Halifax on Tuesday as part of a double-homicide investigation. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

February court date set



Dustin Brian Hales
JEFF HARPER/METRO

Couple to be tried together in Cline murder

The couple charged with the murder of Christina Kathleen Cline will be spending the holiday season behind bars.

Dustin Brian Hales and Victoria Weir-Hales appeared briefly Wednesday afternoon in Dartmouth provincial court. They face first-degree murder charges connected with Cline's death, whose body was found last November in Shubie Park.

The CBC reports the judge placed the couple on the same information, meaning they will be tried together. The Crown also waived a no-contact order between them.

Hales and Weir-Hales have been remanded back to the Central Nova Correctional Facility in Burnside and return to court on Feb. 21. **METRO**

Two facing charges

RCMP seize drugs and weapons including an AK-47

A man and woman are facing a number of charges after police in Cape Breton seized weapons including an AK-47 and a large quantity of drugs inside a home.

At about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, police searched a home in Southside Boularderie, Victoria Co., and found weapons including an AK-47 assault rifle, a bulletproof vest, a loaded, .22-calibre handgun, .22-calibre rifle M-16 style, double-barrel shotgun, recurve bow and arrows, bear spray and ammunition.

Police say the drugs seized included a kilogram of cocaine, a kilogram of hashish, 40 pounds of marijuana, 20,000 tablets of ecstasy and a large quantity of steroids. RCMP also seized \$20,000 cash and a 2003 Jeep Cherokee.

Jason Blinkhorn, 34, and Wendolynne Avery, 39, both of Southside Boularderie, are facing charges in the case.

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Exceptions are blood collection at Musquodoboit Valley, Twin Oaks, Eastern Shore Memorial and Hants Community Hospital. These sites close at their regularly scheduled hours. ML Uniacke Blood Collection is closed from Dec. 20 to Jan. 1 inclusive. St. Margaret's Bay Blood Collection is closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1.

All blood collection clinics are closed Jan. 1.

Walk-in x-ray services at all sites will be closed from Dec. 24 at noon through Jan. 2. The one exception is Musquodoboit Valley, where x-ray services will be open Dec. 27, 28 and 31.

If you have urgent blood collection or x-ray needs, please contact your family doctor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on holiday hours, please visit www.cdha.nshealth.ca and click the 'Holiday Hours' banner.



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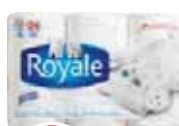
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Hail the Cosmo Canuck!

Up, up and away.
Chris Hadfield blasts off from Kazakhstan on a mission to head the International Space Station

Now call him Cosmo Chris.

Chris Hadfield has successfully blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

He was on his way Wednesday on a mission to become the first Canadian to command the International Space Station.

Hadfield is travelling to the space station on board a Russian Soyuz capsule for a five-month visit to the giant orbiting space lab.

He is sharing the trip to the space station with NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko.

Governor-General David Johnston called Hadfield's launch "a great day for Canada, a great day for the world of discovery and innovation."

He joined the families of Canadian Space Agency em-



No sleeping, please — you're spacemen. Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, left, U.S. astronaut Tom Marshburn and Canada's Chris Hadfield play a little snoozing joke on the media after putting on their spacesuits before blastoff at the Baikonur Cosmodrome. Next stop: The International Space Station.

SHAMIL ZHUMATOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ployees at its headquarters south of Montreal to watch the event on a giant TV screen.

"We're so proud that Chris Hadfield now is up in space — the first Canadian to be

commanding the space station in March," he said.

"And now we simply pray for a continued safe mission and a safe return."

During his stay, Hadfield, an avid guitar player, plans to

do some strumming to help him deal with homesickness.

The 53-year-old space veteran will also be involved with more than 130 experiments including Micro-flow, a Canadian blood-sampling ex-

periment which he compared to a hospital in a box.

Hadfield will become the first Canadian to command the space station during the second half of his mission.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pension surplus

Big unions lose fight for \$28B

The Supreme Court of Canada says several major public unions are not entitled to a \$28-billion pension surplus the government hived off to help pay down the deficit.

The court ruled 9-0 that the government is not obliged to return the funds.

The unions argued the government improperly took their money.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youth now key

Feds make point on immigration

The points system used to decide who can immigrate to Canada is getting a makeover.

The new judging criteria for the federal skilled worker program will award more points to younger immigrants and change the way the government looks at work experience and education.

The way points are allocated for language ability will also change.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Merry Pringles!



Obama wants 'real progress, right now'

Tough tone. President invokes 2nd-amendment freedoms and recent spate of killings in proactive address

No excuses

"The fact that this problem is complex can no longer be an excuse for doing nothing."

Barack Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday demanded "concrete proposals" on curbing gun violence that he could send to Congress no later than January — an urgent effort to build on the growing political consensus over gun restrictions following last week's massacre of children at a Connecticut school.

It was a tough new tone for the president, whose first four years were largely quiet on the issue amid widespread political reluctance to tackle a powerful gun-rights lobby. But emotions have been high after the gunman in Friday's shooting used a semi-automatic rifle to kill 20 young children and six adults at the school,

after killing his mother at home.

"This time, the words need to lead to action," Obama said. He said he will push legislation "without delay" and urged Congress to hold votes on the bill next year.

"The fact that we can't prevent every act of violence doesn't mean we can't steadily reduce the violence," Obama said.

The policy process Obama was announcing Wednesday was expected to include input from the departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services. The Department of Homeland Security is also expected to play a key role. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



U.S. President Barack Obama stands with Vice-President Joe Biden as he makes a statement Wednesday at the White House. Biden, a longtime gun-control advocate, will be spearheading efforts for a new gun policy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Funeral processions continue in Newtown

Firefighters wait for a procession at the main intersection in the village of Newtown, Conn., on Wednesday, as they pay respects to Daniel Gerard Barden, one of the students killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. The small, quiet town has seen gridlock traffic caused by funeral processions, as well as the large number of national and international media covering the aftermath of the shooting. Barden, 7, was killed when the gunman, Adam Lanza, walked into the school last Friday and opened fire, killing 26 people, including 20 children, before killing himself.

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going too far? Bulletproof backpack maker's sales up 300%

Parents reeling in the wake of the Connecticut school shooting are fuelling sales of armoured backpacks for children, as firearms enthusiasts stock up on assault rifles nationwide amid fears of imminent gun control measures.

U.S. armour manufacturer Amendment II's sales of children backpacks and armoured inserts are up 300 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A children's backpack with an anti-ballistic insert is shot with a 9-mm pistol. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Guns in Canada. Tories repeal gun-show rules

The Conservative government has repealed federal gun-show regulations, on the advice of the same controversial advisory committee the prime minister recently rebuked.

The changes kill a set of rules that were introduced by the Liberals in 1998, but never brought into force after years of deferrals.

The regulations would have required the sponsor of a gun show to notify police and the chief firearms officer of the

province before an event, and to ensure the security and safety of the location and the guns.

The government says it consulted Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee, which felt the vast majority already follow the rules.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper rejected the committee's other recommendations to loosen certain gun control laws.

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How will you spend your last night on Earth?



"I wouldn't do anything differently. I just don't see the point. I'm not a crazy guy to begin with."

Evaan Kheraj, Vancouver



"I would probably spend it with my family and friends. I don't really know what else to say."

Diane Leng, Calgary



"I can't say what I'd really do because it's not appropriate to print in a newspaper."

Luke Kellener, Fernie, B.C./Perth, Ont.



"I'm a space fan, so I would like to ... look up at the outer world with (my son) one last time."

Barry Obondo, Edmonton



"I would get a plane to Australia though I probably wouldn't get there in 24 hours."

Elaine Fitzpatrick, Saskatoon



"I would live it up with all my friends and family and I wouldn't even think about tomorrow."

Jaci Youngson, Regina

Doom awaits us — later

2012 prophecy. The world won't end on Dec. 21, experts say, but there are plenty of ways Earth could go



KIERON MONKS

Metro World News in London

It was fun while it lasted, but it seems the world is ending. A growing clamour, based on the Mayan calendar, insists that Dec. 21, 2012, will mark the death of humanity. Even NASA has received thousands of terrified messages from the public.

But the calendar has been misinterpreted, say experts, who claim the "end" refers only to the end of a cycle. The Mayan calendar is split into 394-year "baktuns," and 2012 will see a new era.

"The 13th Baktun will end on Dec. 21, and another will start," says Ines Valera-Silva, a researcher in Mayan studies at Loughborough University in the U.K. "That's all. A catastrophe has never been predicted."

Mayans today have stopped



Who'll look the fool if Earth does end? Worshippers gather at Kukulkan temple at Chichén Itzá, Mexico. CUARTOSCURO

using the old calendar, Valera-Silva adds. "There is no reason to interpret this as a prophecy, but obviously some people are excited by it."

Hollywood movies and social media have driven the debate on exactly how the world will end. One Facebook page with 13,000 fans suggests it will come from a cosmic

event.

"The biggest threat is a comet impact," says Benny Peiser, catastrophe specialist and founder of climate policy network CCNet. "It happens every few million years and could happen at any time. Astronomers are scanning the sky for potential risks, and we need to solve the problem for good by

developing the technology to deflect asteroids."

More speculators believe a black hole will open and swallow us all. The fear led to widespread criticism of scientists working on the Large Hadron Collider, rumoured to be capable of producing a black hole.

Humankind may not need

cosmic forces to bring down Armageddon. The Cold War may be over, but the number of nuclear nations has grown swiftly — and with it, the risk of a "final war."

"It's no secret how to make the weapons and it's not hard to think of people crazy enough to use them," says Alan Robock, environmental scientist at Rutgers University and author of *Nuclear Winter Revisited*.

Threat of terrorism aside, Robock sees a risk in regional feuds between nuclear powers India and Pakistan or Israel and Iran.

Environmentalists point to rising sea levels and the threat of a supervolcano, while nanotechnology may yet produce microorganisms that kill us from the inside.

The endless possibilities explain the interest in bookmaker William Hill's offer of 1,000,000-to-1 on the world ending.

"Some may say it is a bet we can never lose, for the obvious reason that we won't be here to pay out should it happen," spokesman Graham Sharpe says, but several bets have already been placed.

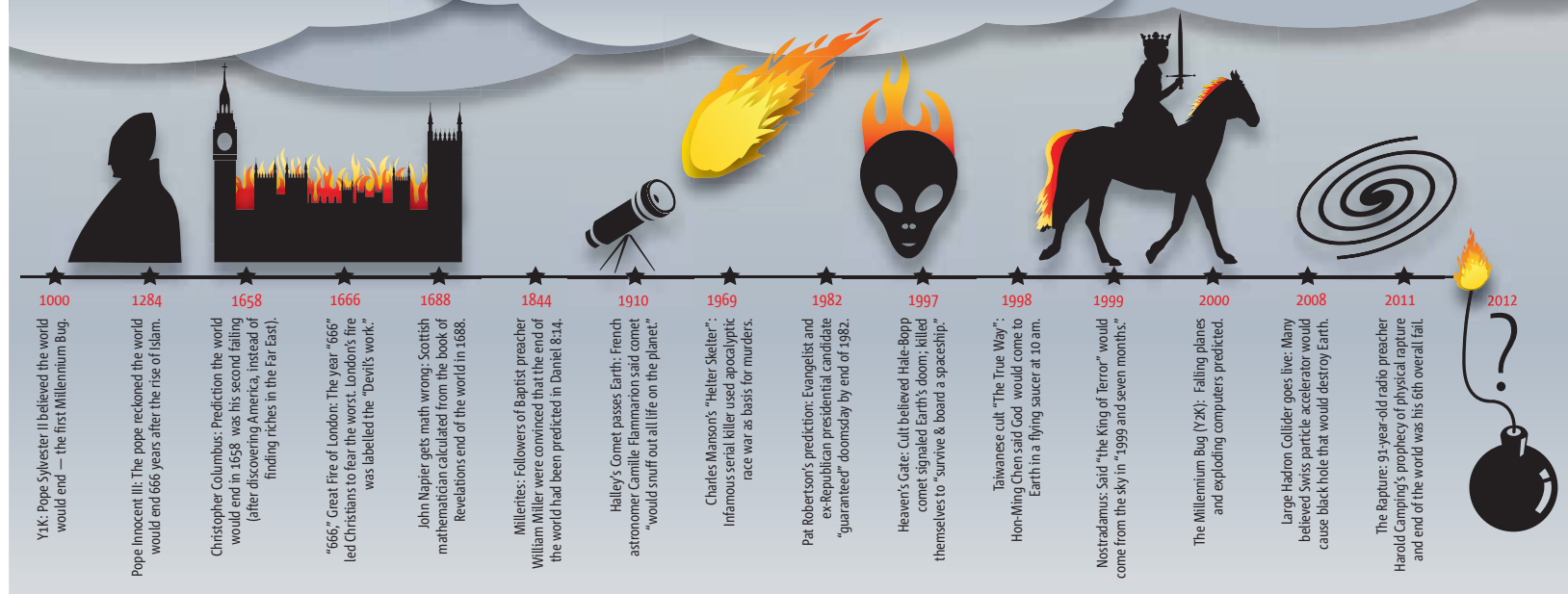
Apocalypse options

- **Comet strike.** Still the most immediate threat; likely to be sudden. Fear factor: 7/10
- **Nuclear war.** An ever-present threat and probably more likely than world peace. FF: 6/10
- **Global warming.** The rising sea is already threatening some islands. FF: 4/10
- **Disease pandemic.** Could happen but unlikely to catch us by surprise. FF: 2/10
- **Sun burnout.** A sure thing but will be in 4.5 billion years' time. FF: 0/10



Bedtime reading: This Mayan manuscript suggests an end to a calendar cycle. GETTY IMAGES

END OF THE WORLD: TIMELINE OF FAILED PREDICTIONS





"Disney World.... Where else would you rather be but the happiest place on Earth?"

Chris Hancock, Winnipeg



"I already live every day like it's the last. So, (I'd) just carry on. I don't make future plans."

Andrew Goddard, London, Ont.



"Blissfully ignorant that it is the last day on Earth. I just would not want to be aware."

Candice McCavitt, Toronto



"I would make a list of everyone in my life that I had something important to say to."

Kirk Raybould, Toronto



"I would break all the laws, all the rules. No drugs, no alcohol: It's not something you need at the end."

Fred Labonte, Ottawa



"I'd probably buy unlimited sushi ... drink a lot and not worry about the hangover the next day."

Leanne Stevens, Halifax



ERIKA PADRÓN
Metro World News in Mexico

José Natividad Ic Xec, a native Mayan living in Mérida, capital of Yucatán in Mexico, where the Mayan civilization once thrived, has dedicated his life to promoting his culture and tradition. Xec explains what the doomsday prophecy really means for his compatriots.

What does Dec. 21 mean to the Mayan people?

For Mayans living in Yucatán, this date means nothing. Like anyone else, we spend that day thinking about what we are going to eat, about our jobs or what the next few months will be like for us. This date was only conceived as a stage in a calendar, as Dec. 22 marks the end of 13 baktuns, (a baktun is a period of 394 years or 144,000 days). And so it's just the end of an era in a calendar.

So the end-of-the-world prophecy is all fantasy?

People speak of a revolution in human consciousness, a new light that will shine upon the world. Believers talk of some kind of transformation and will gather at the Mayan pyramids to perform some kind of ritual. But all of this is not attributed to the Maya; we really don't care about it — on the contrary, it makes us laugh. Our people know little about the



Native Mayan José Natividad Ic Xec tells Metro the calendar's end has nothing to do with the world's end

ancient Mayan Long Count calendar. The only thing we know is that the date Dec. 22 marks an end in the calendar, but people are using the date Dec. 21 because it is the solstice and thus a more memorable date.

Then why is the date such a big deal?

Experts claim that the 13th baktun is a good opportunity for people to make a profit out of those who believe. And if those faithful genuinely believe in it, they would be

frightened; they would look for a bunker or think about a plan of survival. So this end-of-the-world talk is only a bit of fun.

You use social networks to promote your culture. How

popular is Chilam Balam (Xec's blog based on the Mayan document allegedly containing prophecies)?

It's a concept that I started two years ago, first on Twitter and Facebook, then on a blog, which I hope will

continue to grow. On my website, I publish stories on Mayan culture and its characteristics.

Do you yourself have any plans to mark the Mayan event?

Yes, on Dec. 21 and 22, I will be doing live broadcasts from (ancient Mayan site) Chichén Itzá. I will be chatting to Mayans who live in the area. I want them to tell me about how they live. Perhaps they will perform some traditional dancing. I will also talk to other experts like myself who have worked their whole lives to promote Mayan culture. But for all this to happen, I need sponsors. But I'm aware that our old indigenous culture is not a big seller.

Doomsday industry still booming despite the lessons of the past

Are you done your apocalypse shopping yet? You could throw down \$30,000 on a space in a luxury underground bunker or a cheaper "survival kit" that can help you eat grass. Apocalypse literature is booming, with sales from the Left Behind book series worth almost \$1 billion.

It's a modern update of the paper "pardons" sold as insurance against judgment day in the Middle Ages. Many experts trace the birth of the apocalypse industry to the U.S. Millerite movement, when preacher William Miller launched a campaign to promote his vision of doomsday in the 1840s.

"Systematic commercialization first arose from fear of nuclear war in the 1960s, with companies building bomb



Doomsday plan: Dress up like a Mayan and party hard. CONTRIBUTED

shelters," says Lorne Dawson, sociologist and author of *Prophetic Failure and Millennial Movements*. "That showed the business opportunity, and it continued with the surviv-

alist movement of the 1970s and the growing fear of an catastrophe."

The years 2000 and 2012 have revived the focus, and Dawson believes it taps into a

basic human desire. "Simple psychology shows that people need to believe they do not live in chaos, that there is a higher purpose."

Doom preaching has drawn backlash following cases such as the 2011 suicide of British teenager Isabel Taylor. "It's an industry that exploits anxiety and can be dangerous," says Bill Hudson, astronomer and editor of the 2012hoax blog.

Even if 2012 passes without incident, don't expect the industry to stop. "Even when a theory is debunked, a core group tends to become even more fervent," says Hudson. "True believers are locked in. You can't reason someone out of a position they didn't reason themselves into."

KIERON MONKS/MWN IN LONDON, U.K.

Mexico. Prophecy injects billions into economy

It may be the end of the world, but certainly not for Mexico's economy. The Mayan prophecy will have attracted more than \$15 billion in tourist revenue by the end of 2012 as millions flock to the country to discover its indigenous civilization.

Mexico's Ministry of Tourism predicts 52 million visitors will have come to Mexico by the end of 2012, many of whom will have visited the Mundo Maya (Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche states).

"Today we are the 10th power for tourism in the world and we are working hard to be in the top five," outgoing President Felipe Calderon said.

Mexico put aside \$10 million for a 2012 project last summer.

AGUSTÍN VELASCO/MWN IN MEXICO

Party like a Mayan

More than 500 Mayan-themed events will have taken place by the end of the year.

- **Festival Mundo Maya.** Folk festival that celebrates Mayan traditions in the Mexican city of Campeche until Dec. 30.
- **The Gran Museo del Mundo Maya.** Located in Mérida, Yucatan's capital, the museum holds precious Mayan artifacts.
- **The End of the Long Count Mayan Calendar.** The 365-step pyramid of Chichén Itzá will host a ceremonial event on Dec. 21.

Philanthropy. Zuckerberg donates \$500M in stock

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he is giving nearly \$500 million US in stock to a Silicon Valley charity with the aim of funding health and education issues.

Zuckerberg donated 18 million Facebook shares, valued at \$498.8 million US based on their Tuesday closing price. The beneficiary is the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a non-profit that works with donors to allocate their gifts.

This is Zuckerberg's largest donation to date. He pledged \$100 million US in Facebook stock to Newark, N.J., public schools in 2010, before his company went public earlier this year.

In a Facebook post Tuesday, Zuckerberg, 28, said he's "proud of the work" done by the foundation that his Newark donation launched, called

Giving Pledge

- In 2010, Zuckerberg joined Giving Pledge, an effort led by Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. CEO Warren Buffett to get the richest people in the U.S. to donate most of their wealth. His wife, Priscilla Chan, joined with him.

Startup: Education, which has helped open charter schools, high schools and others.

With the latest contribution, he added, "we will look for areas in education and health to focus on next." He did not give further details on what plans there may be for funds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penny's end to cost a mint

Chump change. New analysis shows price tag for redeeming one-cent coins in circulation will be about \$7.3M yearly

The demise of Canada's one-cent coin next year will save taxpayers less than expected.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the impending withdrawal of the penny in last March's budget, saying the government would save \$11 million a year in production costs.

That's because production of each one-cent coin had cost the Royal Canadian Mint about 1.6 cents. But a new analysis of costs shows that redeeming the mountain of circulating pennies beginning Feb. 4 will cost taxpayers about \$7.3 million a year.

The analysis projects a net cost of about \$38.3 million to redeem some six billion pennies expected to be turned in by consumers and financial institutions over the next six years.

Costs include \$53 million expected to be paid out to redeem the face value of the coins, as well as another \$27 million in handling and admin-



Jeff Golby wears an oversized model of a penny on his head as he collects donations of one-cent coins for charity during this past summer's Canada Day festivities in Vancouver. The federal government is phasing out use of the Canadian penny, and the last one was minted this past May. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

istration costs by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Recycling the zinc and copper from melted-down pennies will bring in about \$42.5 million in revenue, leaving government in the red at slightly more than \$38 million.

However, adding the \$11 million in annual savings from not minting any more pennies, which ceased production May 4

By the numbers

35B

Over the last century, the Royal Canadian Mint has stamped an estimated 35 billion pennies from metal plates. The penny remains legal tender even after Feb. 4.

this year, still gives the government annual savings of almost

\$4 million over the expected six-year redemption period.

As the coins are withdrawn, cash transactions will begin to be rounded off to the nearest five cents, but there are no government-imposed rules or policing. Electronic transactions, such as those on debit cards or credit cards would still be registered in cents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute



DOLLAR
101.20¢
(-0.25¢)

Natural gas: \$3.32 (-10¢)
Dow Jones: 13,251.97 (-98.99)



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In this 2010 file photo, General Motors Co. CEO Daniel Akerson poses in front of the New York Stock Exchange following GM's initial public offering. On Wednesday, the U.S. government said it will sell its remaining stake in General Motors in the next year or so, winding down a controversial \$50-billion US bailout. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GM will spend \$5.5B to buy back shares

Government bailout. Washington is almost certain to lose billions on deal that saved iconic carmaker

The U.S. Treasury plans to sell its remaining stake in General Motors over the next 15 months, allowing the auto-

maker to shed the stigma of being partly owned by the American government.

GM said Wednesday it will spend \$5.5 billion US to buy back 200 million shares of its stock from the Treasury by the end of this year.

And the U.S. government, unlike its Canadian counterpart, has promised to sell its remaining 300 million shares on the open market starting in

January and get out of the company's business within the next 12 to 15 months.

The deal almost certainly means that Washington will lose billions on the \$49.5-billion bailout that saved GM from being auctioned off in pieces during the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009. GM's buyback will cut the Treasury's stake to 19 per cent from 26.5 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Donations are better than gifts, majority of Canadians say

A man gives money to a Salvation Army holiday campaign in this file photo. A new study suggests almost two-thirds of Canadian adults would rather see a donation to charity on their behalf rather than receive a gift this holiday season. The poll for BMO Harris Private Banking also found that 78 per cent of respondents would consider making that charitable donation rather than giving a traditional gift.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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VEGAS: WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS WRITTEN IN A COLUMN



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Greetings, world travellers! The U.S. may have a Bible Belt to hold up the britches of the nation, but this week we look at Las Vegas, the city where pants are optional.

This luminous postage stamp in the middle of desert darkness is home to the American stereotype in all its glory. I have enough American friends to know the obvious — that the U.S. is incredibly diverse — but here in Vegas I'm surrounded by large boobs (not literally), large food (I had a crab cake with the same size and heft of a curling stone) and large cars (my "compact" rental could comfortably seat a starting hockey lineup wearing its gear).

After four days here, I have compiled this exhaustive, 350-word guide to Sin City, which contains oodles of useful information for your trip to Las Vegas. (LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This column contains no useful information about anything.)

Las Vegas 101

Las Vegas, literally "Lots of Neon," was founded by itinerant escorts and slot-machine builders in the 1930s, who dreamed of a new America where all the worst jobs in the country could be concentrated in one place. Here you'll find tens of thousands of service workers who must put up with customers in a perpetual "Listen here, friend" state of 1-a.m. drunkenness, and the servers do it all with a smile — a tight, painful smile. You will pity tip more than you ever have in your entire life.

Fortunately, you'll have plenty of opportunities to distract yourself. For instance, while newspaper boxes lie empty in much of the United States, Vegas does a booming media trade with such well-respected publications as Barely Legal, College Girls! and Alt. Who Says Print is Dead?

And did you know that in Las Vegas it's legal to gamble? The only rule is that the gambling must take place in a one-third replica of some other place on Earth.

The casino resorts include:

- The Venetian, which has an exact replica of the Venice canals, right down to the neon-rimmed gondolas, the ice-skating rink and the country-western band playing covers on the hour. Viva Italia!
- New York, New York, which for just \$5 extra will give you a one-third mugging.
- The Bellagio, famous for its fountains, which are a replica of the Eastern European country Bellagistan and its three-times-bigger fountains.
- One shopping mall also looks like a (really) cheap one-third knock-off of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, so presumably there'll soon be a really earnest but widely disliked resort here soon with the slogan "A World-Class Casino ... Aren't We?"

Vegas could be tempting to dismiss as low-rent or vulgar, but unlike many other cities, it knows exactly what it is. And if you don't like it, well, nobody told you to travel to the middle of the desert.

The city also has many bars and whatnot, but I don't want to get into that because of space restrictions and just in case I ever want to run for U.S. Congress. Mistakes were made. We'll leave it at that.

Because, as the man said, you got to know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, and know when to run. (That man, of course, was a one-third replica of Kenny Rogers.)



A sign of the times in Las Vegas. JOHN MAZEROLLE/FOR METRO

Takes an eagle eye to spot a hoax



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Class project

World fooled by Montreal video

Relax, world — your baby won't get snatched by an eagle if you visit Montreal.

An online video of the massive bird plucking an infant off the ground has been acknowledged by its creators as a fake.

The admission comes after the video, produced by students at a new-media training school in Montreal, was viewed millions of times Wednesday on YouTube and was the subject of news reports in Canada and internationally. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Other pranks

With the Internet in shock over the eagle/toddler hoax, Metro decided to revisit some other online video spoofs of the past.

- **Lonelygirl15.** This was an early online video blog depicting the life of a fictional teenager named Bree Avery. The series followed the typical angst-ridden teenager whose confessional videos covered things like her favourite stuffed animals or her first kiss. Over time, the show evolved to include a cult and the mysterious disappearance of Bree's parents. In the
- **Dating site eHarmony cat lady.** A woman named Debbie tearfully confessed her love of felines in what appeared to be a dating site biography. The site released a statement after admitting it was a hoax.
- **Onion iPod charger.** A video purportedly showed a man charging his iPod using an onion and some Gatorade. It also garnered a

fall of 2006, fans of the show discovered that Bree was actually a 19-year-old actress named Jessica Rose, and the show was revealed to be fake.

lot of press when frustrated Apple enthusiasts plugged their devices into various vegetables.

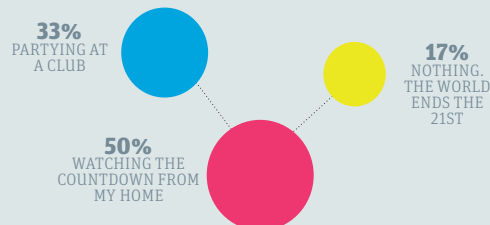
- **Microsoft 'viral marketing' slip and slide.** A video shows a man rocketing down a giant water slide before flying off a ramp at the end and landing in a small wading pool. The video was created using a stuntman and computer animation, and was eventually revealed to be part of a marketing campaign for Microsoft Office.

Watch these videos and more at metronews.ca.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What will you be doing for New Year's?



Twitter

@StephMeagher902:

Can't go out in Halifax without seeing 100 people I know... #smallcity

none in Dartmouth #notfair

@DanORourke:

Christmas carollers on the #Halifax to Dartmouth ferry. Awesome! Great way to end a day.

@EllenJSim:

On this cold snowy day I went to the Italian Market in Halifax for the first time. Loved the food and the atmosphere!

@LusciousLissa:

Why does the snow falling make crazy drivers?? #Halifax

@IanRobinsonPA:

In 7th Heaven as the Halifax Mooseheads are ranked #1 in Canada for the 7th week in a row in the CHL Top 10!! #merrychristmoose #ocanada

@haleyklatt:

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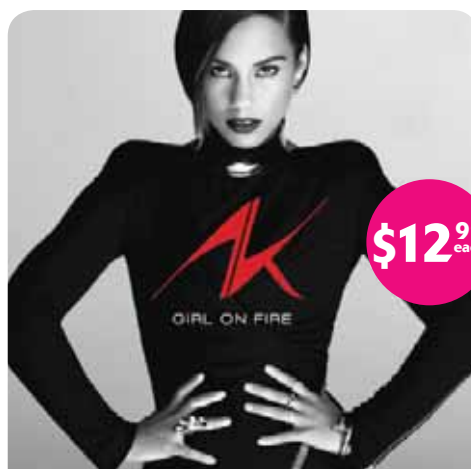
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hmv

Maritime musician cooks up a worthwhile collaboration

In the kitchen.

Lana Grant calls on her connections to put together a collection of well-loved recipes for a good cause



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

Between touring, writing and promoting, being a Maritime musician can be, according to artist Lana Grant, quite an individualized journey.

There is the occasional collaboration or music festival but, as Grant pointed out to me in a recent interview, there is a need to bring everyone together.

A perpetual project manager, Grant called on her 20 years worth of connections in the music business, along with her experience in marketing, to create Musicians, Memories & Morsels: An East Coast Story Cook Book.

"I know other musicians that have a lot of good stories and a lot of good recipes, so I put out a call and invited all these artists to join in and make a really complementary book," Grant said.

"I love leading projects like this and supporting the music industry."

Less than a year after the idea was merely a passing comment over drinks, this 160-page kitchen party in a book represents so much more than a col-

Quoted

"I love leading projects like this and supporting the music industry."

Lana Grant, who spearheaded the Musicians, Memories & Morsels cookbook project.

lection of stories and recipes.

"We decided to use it as a tool to raise awareness for mental health."

Having a niece who is bipolar, mental illness is a cause near to Grant's heart. Sadly, recent news events have given weight to the importance of access to treatment and proper, stigma-free awareness for those living with mental illness.

"In the book, we have 'recipe for health' with resource websites and phone numbers for people to ask for help," Grant said.

"If we can save a couple people from making a bad decision because they are suffering — that is so important."

To help promote this project, Grant, and other featured musicians, will continue a promotional book tour, and launch a series of concerts throughout the Maritimes.

Where to find it

- **Online.** musicianmorsels.com.
- **Around town.** All Comfort and Joy locations or at Argyle Fine Art.



Lana Grant mixes musician's stories and recipes in a new cookbook. HANDOUT

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Kristen Stewart ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

K-Stew's sorry for her cheatin' heart

Kristen Stewart knows she's upset more than a few fans over the course of her Twilight tenure — especially since her summer cheating scandal. "I apologize to everyone for making them so angry. It was not my intention," the actress tells Newsweek. "It's not a terrible

thing if you're either loved or hated. But honestly, I don't care because it doesn't keep me from doing my s—." And as for the hugely successful vampire franchise coming to an end? "The only relief when it comes to Twilight is that the story is done," she admits.



Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie dusts off her director's hat

Angelina Jolie is set to return to the director's chair, choosing to adapt Laura Hillenbrand's Second World War survival story, Unbroken, as her second film, according to E! News. The story follows Louis Zamperini, an air force pilot who survived a crash and spent most of the war in a

Japanese prison camp. "I read Laura Hillenbrand's brilliant book and I was so moved by Louis Zamperini's heroic story, I immediately began to fight for the opportunity to make this film," Jolie says. Her directorial debut, In the Land of Blood and Honey, focused on the Bosnian war.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



The year of the lost locks — femmes who took it all off



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

No more long locks for these ladies. Whether it was for a role of a lifetime or to bring awareness to a cause, here are some haircuts that turned heads this year.

Who: Anne Hathaway
Why: The actress had to shave her head for her role as the prostitute Fantine in Les Misérables.
Current length: Short. "I love the short-haired lifestyle," Hathaway says in the December issue of Vogue. "I'm turning 30, and — I hope this isn't obnoxious to say — I feel prettier, and much more myself. I guess I just feel much more satisfied with less now."

Who: Charlize Theron
Why: Theron's shaved head is courtesy of her latest film role, Mad Max: Fury Road.
Current length: Still shaved.

Who: Kellie Pickler
Why: The American Idol singer got a buzz cut to support her best friend, Summer Miller, who had to undergo chemotherapy while being treated for breast cancer.
Current length: Growing out a tad. "We made a pact from the get-go that we would shave our heads together," Pickler told E! Online about sharing the look with her best pal. "And we did."

Who: Miley Cyrus
Why: Who knows. Probably because she's aching to be seen as more "edgy" than her Disney roots.
Current length: It's not so much talking about length as it is talking about the crazy. As she wrote on Twitter when she originally lost the locks, "Never felt more me in my whole life."



Kate Middleton

Kate Middleton determined to make the Royal Christmas

Despite her recent pregnancy-related hospitalization, Kate Middleton is vowing to put on a brave face for the Royal Family's Christmas dinner, according to Radar Online. "Kate doesn't want to disappoint the Queen, nor does she want to skip on her duties," a source says.

"She feels she is obliged to appear at the annual Christmas

dinner and doesn't want to let anyone down." Her husband, though, is offering an out. "William has his concerns though that she won't be up to it, and told Kate she shouldn't worry if she feels too sick to attend and that no one will judge her negatively," the source adds. "But Kate isn't having it and is determined to be at the dinner, smiling as always."

Twitter



@JLo
HOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



@ralphmacchio
Guess it's time to join the holiday shopping. Just not a fan of the obligatory equal or better gift mandates. #scrooging



@TheRealRoseanne
Dear World: It's been nice knowing U,4 the most part altho ur stupidity brings about the end of life-12-21-12, at least we laughed alot! bye



@JonahHill
Instagram, you were my favorite app and you stabbed me in the back. I feel like I married you and you just slept with my best friend.

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The Carly Rae kiss

The Call Me Maybe singer breaks down the craft of the smudge-free make-out, her Ryan Gosling crush and why she'd never play spin the bottle with Justin Bieber

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

As she promotes her new album, *Kiss*, we asked Carly Rae Jepsen about makeup application and the art of making out, because we figured she must be an expert at it by now.

Putting the makeup on...

"For a press event, I need one hour for my hair and makeup. But if it's just for me, I literally need 10 minutes. My grooming process has become shorter and shorter in my off-days. I like getting glammed up for the red carpet, but then being able to wear no makeup and be in flannel for a camping weekend. I'm like, 'Take me as I am.'"

The spin the bottle test.
Ryan Gosling — yay or nay?
"I've always had a thing for Ryan Gosling. I don't think



I'm alone in that! There's not one movie of his that I haven't liked. It's his personality. I've never met him, but the characters he

plays are very charming."

And Justin Bieber?
"He's my friend, that would be too strange. We would

never play that game together!"

On making out

"I've always had fairly pleasant experiences, but not, like, a lot of them! Kissing is all about how you feel about the person. If you have no chemistry, it can be totally meaningless. But if you have the right amount of flare, then it can be a really magical moment. I don't know if I'm a good kisser. I hope so."

Video

Watch Carly Rae Jepsen give a tutorial on how to kiss without smudging your lipstick on metronews.ca



Holiday party skin savers

These are two products to turn to when the party starts showing up on your face

KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

La Prairie Advanced Marine Biology Day Cream SPF 20

\$135, laprairie.com. Grab this potent face cream to recover from all of that dehydrating holiday drinking.



Lancôme Visionnaire Advanced Skin Corrector

\$60, lancome.com. This is the serum to fill out those forehead creases that pop up after too many nights spent squinting in dark clubs.



Inside her makeup bag

Carly Rae Jepsen opens up her purse to show us two products she can't get through the day without

MAC Lipstick in Lady Danger

"I'm obsessed with this. It's a statement piece. It's kind of like an orangey red, but the perfect shade of it. It's a good pick-me-up if you have to get dolled up fast."



Marc Jacobs Daisy Eau de Parfum

"I'm really picky with scents. I can get sick of them after a day or two. Daisy has been one that I've really hung on to. It's not too domineering, really pleasant and kind of subtle. It feels really fresh every time I spray it on."

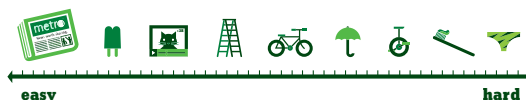


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The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Ann Nguyen
Sales manager at
Lynn Steven
Age: 31

What she's wearing

Aritzia toque, Oak + Fort coat, Wilfred Free T-shirt, Rachel Comey shoes

Her inspiration

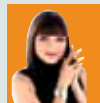
"I'm constantly in a creative state of mind, so I like clothes that are comfortable, functional and at the same time, an outfit that moves with me."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: M'C KENNETH LICON, LITTLE-FASHIONISTO.COM

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life@metronews.ca

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@Jeanne_Beker: Sweet to have carollers @TorontoPearson Apparently you tweet them traveller's name, flight # + date of arrival + the carollers greet them!

@Jeanne_Beker: On my way to @CTVCanadaAM to judge gingerbread houses! What makes a GOOD gingerbread house?

@MaryamRitzy
awesomeee!

@BeeLeeMon
Imperfection! :)

@BeeLeeMon
@torontopearson that's amazing!!!!!! Wish I was traveling now.

@misstraceynolan
@torontopearson That is very cool!

@mavicanada
that's so fun and festive!



@Jeanne_Beker: Face Time @theloopca @BeckermanBlog @TonyChapman + @ssheffman @shopeluxe Talking online shopping!



@Jeanne_Beker: Canadian glamour!! Krystal Koo co-chair of Sparkle, Ronald McDonald fund-raiser, in @PavoniOfficial



@Jeanne_Beker: With Frank Toskan, founder of @MACcosmetics at the Ronald McDonald House fund-raiser at The Carlu

A Very Matthew Williamson Christmas

Gift guide. 2012 was a big year for the designer who celebrated the 15th anniversary of his eponymous line. He tells us how he plans to celebrate the holidays

KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

"I'm a huge fan of a traditional Christmas dinner," says Matthew Williamson.

He usually spends the holiday at his parents' house in Manchester, England, where he'll be headed in a week.

"There'll be some big family meals, walks and

games," he explains.

But his fantasy Christmas looks more like an episode of Downton Abbey with some old Bob Hope specials mixed in.

"(My dream Christmas) would be cooked by mum, of course — a turkey with all the trimmings. My family, all of my closest friends and their children would be there. We'd be in the grand

dining room at Aynhoe Park, which is this stately home in Oxfordshire, with a roaring fire going and deer in the snow outside the window," he adds.

"Perhaps Bing Crosby or Frank Sinatra would drop by for a song or two. Ok, I'm getting a little carried away now." He fills us in on what he plans to give — and hopes to receive — this month.



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ANGELS IN
MEMORY

Classic gifts for the pickiest decorator

Imagine having the task of buying a Christmas present for someone who not only has it all, but seemingly has great taste and knows what they like. That's what my family and friends run up against every Christmas — trying to buy me something I don't already have or will like enough to have in my home. Truth be told, designers are probably the simplest to buy for, as long as you don't give short-lived trend items. By keeping the choices classic and useful, your gift will be a hit with your favourite design aficionado. Here's a few that topped my wish list this holiday season. Some cost as little as a dollar and some hundreds. I'd love all of them under my tree this year, Mr. Santa...



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca



The fuzzy feeling

Whether it be real or faux, a fur throw slung over a chair or end of the bed has always made a luxurious statement in the home. From year to year the fur colours change (this year it's pale browns and greys), and there is always an animal print in fashion. Take a cue from designer Brian Gluckstein and his collection of throws (with a handsome leather carry handle) and live like a designer. Faux Fur Throw, \$149, thebay.com.

Clink, clink on the cheap

Nothing breaks the mood of a fancy party than having to use the wrong glass when toasting a celebration. And trust me, using a wine glass to serve champagne does not impress anyone who is style conscious. I like to stock up on glass ones and have plenty of them. My go-to store is the Dollarama. Glass Champagne Flutes, \$1, dollarama.com.



A simple touch

A decorative box can sit handsomely on a front foyer table to hold keys, coins and cards, or on a dresser to hold jewelry, pens and keepsakes in the bedroom. The Agresti Gold Leaf Box adds simple lines and a subtle gold shine to decorate any table or dresser top. \$795, birks.com.

Crystal accent

The classic round shape of the rose bowl (or goldfish bowl, as it's commonly called) is perfect for flowers. Three rose bowls in a row creates a modern appeal down the centre of a dining table or on a mantel. Tiffany's Floral Vine Rose Bowl holds a dozen red roses, a candle and more, \$330, tiffany.ca.



Light it up

There is no decorator out there that doesn't like candles, and even better are a collection of candles on a tray. It's the perfect centerpiece on a dining table, coffee table or in the bath. Inexpensive candles mean filling the tray without breaking the bank. Glade Winter Collection Candles, \$5.50 each, glade.ca.

Charger chic

Decorate the simplest of china by adding a layer of silver underneath. Charger plates create instant shimmer and luxury to a dinner party table. Add cool silver shine and the natural imprint of wood-grain with charger plates from President's Choice, \$10 for 4, loblaw.ca.



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Is this the last supper?

A bite of Belize. This country was once home to the ancient Mayans, who are said to have predicted the end of the world on Dec. 21. If that's the case, go out with a full stomach

"Cochinita (small pig) pibil (to bury) literally translates to 'buried whole suckling pig,'" write the editors of *Flavors of Belize* magazine in their book of the same name about this recipe.

"Traditionally, you should marinate the pork in the same manner but cook the whole pig wrapped in banana leaves underground with fire wood

and hot stones for hours until tender."

This recipe by Chef Sean Kuylen can also be cooked in a slow cooker, on low for 12 hours or on high for six hours.

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Pierce pork with knife and insert garlic cloves all around.

2. Mix all dry ingredients;

combine with recado, diluted in orange juice and coat pork. Marinate overnight.

3. Place pork in large roasting pan lined with banana leaves. Add onion, sweet pepper and place cilantro on top. Pour remaining marinade liquid and add more water to pan to approximately 1 inch high. Cover with banana leaves

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Verano Shiraz or Tempranillo-Cabernet

SAVE \$2.00

\$12.99 each

750 ml

Pureco Cochinita Pibil



This recipe serves eight. MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

and seal tightly with foil.

4. Bake for 5 hours or until meat is very tender and starts to release from the bone. Shred pork and serve on warm corn

tortillas topped with pickled red onions or habanero salsa.

ALL RECIPES ON THIS PAGE FROM FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK (MCNAB PUBLISHING LTD)

Ingredients

- 5 lbs pork shoulder or pork leg, bone in
- 1 head garlic
- 1 1/2 tbsp salt
- 2 tsp cumin
- 1 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1 1/2 tbsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp red recado, diluted to form paste
- 1/2 cup sour orange juice
- Smoked banana leaves
- 2 medium onions, quartered
- 2 medium green bell peppers, quartered
- 1/4 cup cilantro, minced

Dukunu. In ancient Mayan culture, corn was considered a gift from gods

1. Peel corn, reserving clean husks. Purée corn with water in a blender. Pour into a large mixing bowl and mix with the remaining ingredients.

2. Place 1/4 to 1/3 cup mixture onto the centre of each reserved husk. Bring sides together, making sure to overlap and fold pointed end upward. Secure each with string.

3. Place 2 to 3 inches of water in sauce pot, bring to a boil and arrange dukunu folded side

Ingredients

- 10 to 12 green corn on the cob, shucked
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup coconut milk
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp sugar
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

down. Boil for about 1/2 hour. Remove from husk and serve.

Cookbook of the Week

Dine like the Mayans

Published by McNab Publishing Ltd., *Flavors of Belize* includes a selection of soups and starters, main dishes and delectable desserts.

Additionally, this cookbook hosts a variety of submissions from some of Belize's most renowned chefs and cooks.

Each section opens with a brief explanation of the different cultures, whose history acts as the foundation of Belizean heritage.

This colourful gastronomic guide delivers more than 120 recipes spanning cultures including the Maya, British, Mestizo, Creole, Chinese, Lebanese, Garifuna and more.

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6 ways to celebrate the spirit of the season



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HOLIDAY 2012

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gift guide

iPhone 5 —
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up (without
contract).

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YAWNEY**
For Metro

With processors and features that rival small computers, it's no wonder smartphones have quickly become the high tech gift for the holidays. There are many smartphones to choose from, but which one is right for your loved one? Take a look at our picks to find the perfect one.

iPhone 5 — \$699 and up (without contract)
Featuring an all new design, Apple's latest smartphone is sure to turn heads. The diamond-cut bevelled edges not only look beautiful, they take away the rough edges, giving it an elegant feel. This is the first iPhone to feature LTE, which means you can take advantage of the latest high-speed wireless networks. The Retina display has also been made slightly larger so you get more usable workspace on the screen.

Samsung Galaxy Note 2 — \$729 (without contract)
An ideal smartphone for

Tap into these tech gifts

Buzz about smartphones

those in marketing, advertising or someone with a creative flair. Often referred to as a smart-phone/tablet hybrid, the Note II features a large 5.5-inch screen that can be navigated through touch or a special stylus known as an S Pen. Users can use the pen to sketch or draw on maps, photos or blueprints. The blazing quad-core processor gives this phone performance like no other.

Nokia Lumia 920 — \$549.99 (without contract)
The most advanced Windows phone to date. Sporting wireless

charging and a touch-screen so sensitive you can use it while wearing gloves, the Nokia 920 is sure to be a popular phone this holiday. The 8.7-mega-pixel camera also shoots surprisingly well in low light conditions.

LG Optimus G — \$599 (without contract)
This smartphone has received the title of "Canada's fastest smartphone." Not only is it the first handset to feature Qualcomm's lightning-quick quad-core processor, it's also the first phone to support the 2,600 MHz spectrum, which

is the fastest LTE network in the country. The Optimus G also features a voice-activated camera that will snap photos whenever someone says the word "cheese."

Sony Xperia T — \$549 (no contract, price may vary)
Known simply as "The Bond Phone," the Xperia T is the same smartphone used by 007 himself in Skyfall. This handset features a 13-mega-pixel camera and is Playstation certified, which is perfect for those who enjoy gaming on the go. Music and photos can easily be shared

Samsung Galaxy
Note 2 — \$729
(without
contract).

by bringing this smart- to other phone close NFC-enabled devices.

Mophie Powerstation Pro — \$99

Smartphones are simply paperweights without a fully charged battery. Fortunately, this device will ensure your battery lasts all day and then some. The Powerstation Pro holds enough juice to recharge your smartphone up to four times. It's lightweight, rugged, dust-proof and waterproof so it's perfect for those constantly on the go.

Ballistic Cases — various prices

You spent a fortune on your new smartphone, so why not protect your investment. Ballistic cases are designed to do just that. Ballistic cases have been tested to withstand drops, being run over by vehicles, and Fido's canine teeth.

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Recipe. Mulled Cider Shortbread Bars

Try these shortbread bars for guests or the family during the holidays.

Ingredients:

Crust:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup cold Gay Lea Unsalted Butter, cut into cubes
- ½ cup instant dissolving sugar
- ½ tsp salt

Filling:

- 6 egg yolks

- 2 cups instant dissolving sugar
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups apple cider
- 2 tsp finely grated orange zest
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 tbsp icing sugar

Instructions:

- 1** Crust: Preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C). Combine

the flour, butter, sugar and salt in a food processor; pulse until crumbly. Firmly press the dough into a 9x13-inch baking pan lined with foil. Bake for 25 minutes or until pale golden around the edges.

2 Filling: Meanwhile, whisk the egg yolks with the sugar and flour until a very thick paste forms. Whisk in the apple cider, orange zest, cinnamon, baking powder and

nutmeg until smooth.

3 Reduce the oven temperature to 300 F (150 C). Pour the egg mixture over the hot crust. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until just set. Cool to room temperature. Chill for at least 4 hours or until firm. Dust the top with the icing sugar and slice into bars. Makes 32 bars

Tips:

- 1** Make-ahead: Transfer the bars to an airtight

container and store, in the refrigerator, for up to 4 days or in the freezer for up to 1 month.

2 Ingredient source: If apple cider isn't available at the supermarket, use any cold-pressed apple juice available. Or try purchasing a cup of fresh cider from a local coffee house.

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Mulled Cider Shortbread Bars.
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Challenge yourself this year by finding different ways to gift wrap your Christmast presents. JUPITERIMAGES/COMSTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Get crafty with gift wrapping



SARAH GUNN
YummyMummyClub.ca

Wrapping presents is one of my favourite things to do this time of year. I love the patterns of paper, the ribbons and the bows.

This year, though, I wanted to get a little crafty with my Christmas wrapping so I challenged myself to come up with three different ways to use brown paper.

I discovered that brown

paper packages don't just have to be tied up with string — they can be decorated with almost anything. (Yes, The Sound of Music is my favourite movie of all time).

I mostly used things around the house, but if you don't have a basement full of craft supplies, you can get everything you need at any craft store.

- Paint your packages in a holiday theme using craft paint.
- Use ribbon, scrapbook



Use craft paint to create a holiday theme. YUMMY MUMMY PHOTO



Try ribbon, scrapbook paper and stickers for decoration. YUMMY MUMMY PHOTO



Wrap your package in a band of felt and add details. YUMMY MUMMY PHOTO

paper, and stickers for another look.

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by the end of their time here."

With people leading lives that are busier than ever, it has become increasingly difficult for people to fit some "me" time into their schedules.

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images of luxury, a spa really should be a staple of life, a place where people go to recharge their batteries to get a personalized experience that rejuvenates them. At Niche, the caring staff helps people do just that.

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Mooseheads still not 'a perfect team': GM

QMJHL trade period.

Cam Russell open to making moves, if they make sense



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

On the surface, why mess with a good thing?

The Halifax Mooseheads enjoy a league-best record of 28-3-1-1 and have clearly been the best team in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League through the first half of the season.

But all teams will tell you there's room for improvement, which is why Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell will be checking to see what's available when the QMJHL trade period begins Saturday.

"Obviously we got a good thing going here. There is a lot to be excited about," Russell said.

"That being said, we still don't see ourselves as a perfect team. We do have areas that we could possibly upgrade. I don't want to tip my hat to anything, but there are areas you want to get a little bit better. If we can do that, and it works with our plan moving forward, then we'll do that."

While Russell isn't showing his hand, an area where Halifax could try to improve is grit at the forward position. Last year Halifax had 20-year-old forward Cameron Critchlow, who not only scored but played with a playoff intensity that resonated through the dressing room.

That type of player may be on the roster already, but no



Halifax Mooseheads GM Cam Russell is certainly a buyer for the upcoming QMJHL trading period, but only if the price is right. METRO FILE

one with the proven track record Russell could want.

"To have the perfect hockey players that play with skill, and play with grit, they are hard to find," he said. "Guys like Jody Shelley only come along so often — guys that play with tremendous character and grit, that can play a regular shift."

"Those guys are valuable ... and typically when a team gets them, they don't want to let them go. We had requests for Critchlow last year at the trade deadline and there was no way we were going to trade him."

As far as untouchables go,

Russell won't single anyone out, but Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin and Zach Fucale are part of a list of names not even up for conversation.

"Obviously we have some guys we can't and don't obviously want to move," he said. Russell isn't sure how busy this year's trade window will be, but he said he believes it will be quieter than last year when the QMJHL hosted the Memorial Cup.

The most talked-about prize possibly available is Saint John Sea Dogs forward Jonathan Huberdeau, though any deal would have to be conditional on him returning to the QMJHL and not the Montreal Canadiens if the NHL lockout ends.

That said, Russell is unwavering in his stance against making deals simply because other top contenders are active, even if it means some-

Available

Goalie Terenzio on the block

One player Halifax Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell is open to saying he is shopping is No. 3 netminder Anthony Terenzio.

The team's former No. 1 goaltender is healthy again after recovering from a serious concussion and Russell said a couple of teams are



Anthony Terenzio METRO FILE

showing interest.

"We don't want to carry three goalies after Christmas. So, we'll try and accommodate him."

one else landing Huberdeau.

"You'll kill yourself with stress if you worry about what everyone else is doing," Russell said. "At the end of the day,

just because a team brings in a top-end player, it doesn't mean they're guaranteed anything."

The trade window ends on Jan. 7.

Quoted

"We have to be very careful. You can very easily set yourself back a year or two if you make the wrong deal." Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell

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4 SPORTS

Taking back Stanley?

Reclaiming cup
not on GG's mind

The Stanley Cup may have been created by the office of Canada's Governor General, but don't count on the current office-holder to take the trophy back.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston chuckled when asked whether the prospect of a cancelled season could prompt him to reclaim Canada's beloved relic.

Edmonton MP Brent Rathgeber has suggested the cup could be awarded in a competition to determine the best non-pro team in Canada. Also, one of the cup's full-time guardians recently said it would be "exciting" to have a mock tournament if the season is cancelled. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHLPA waiting on NHL to resume negotiations: Fehr

Lockout. League not sure progress can be made at this point

Donald Fehr says the NHL Players' Association is ready to get back to the bargaining table at any moment.

He's just waiting for the NHL to feel the same way.

"(We aren't talking) because the owners have not indicated a desire to resume," the NHLPA's executive director said Wednesday night before a charity game. "We've

indicated any number of times that we're willing to resume when they are (and) we're willing to resume without preconditions.

"So we're waiting to hear back from them."

The sides haven't negotiated with one another since Dec. 6 in New York, when talks broke down. They also met with a U.S. federal mediator for two days in New Jersey last week and reported no progress.

From the NHL's perspective, negotiations should only resume once there is something new to say.

Quoted

"We don't have anything new to say right now."

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly on the status of negotiations. Daly created a stir earlier in the day when he made an appearance on CBC's HNHC Radio and was asked to give a simple yes or no answer on whether there would be an agreement in time to save the season. He responded, "Yes."

"I don't think either party is refusing a meeting," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in an email. "But unless there is an indication one side or the other is prepared to move or has a new idea to move the process forward — and so far neither side has indicated — I am not sure what we would

do at the meeting.

"What is the agenda? Who is directing the conversation?"

Fehr indicated that he liked the idea put forward by Winnipeg Jets defenceman Ron Hainsey that the same parties who met two weeks ago return to the bargaining table, plus himself and commission-

er Gary Bettman. Progress was made during a session that included four new owners and a number of players, including Sidney Crosby.

"That seems like it might work if the owners are interested in it," said Fehr.

However, Daly indicated that it didn't hold much appeal.

The NHL has insisted on getting in at least a 48-game schedule — the same number it had after the 94-95 lockout — which means an agreement will need to be reached by the middle of January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL. Eskimos extend Sherritt's contract to 2015

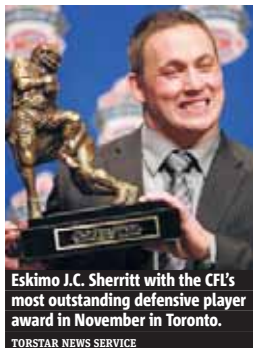
Relegated to the practice roster after his first pre-season, J.C. Sherritt looked like he might become an afterthought with the Edmonton Eskimos.

Two seasons and 202 bone-crunching tackles later, Sherritt is not only the cornerstone of the Eskimos defence, he's the top defensive player in the CFL.

The Eskimos rewarded Sherritt for his stellar play Wednesday, signing the five-foot-nine, 218-pound linebacker to a contract extension through the 2015 season.

"Last year was obviously a season of highs and lows, and one of the highs was definitely the play of J.C. Sherritt," Eskimos general manager Ed Herve said.

Sherritt was the overwhelming choice for the CFL's outstanding defensive player award, earning 49 of the 57 votes cast by CFL coaches and members of the Football Reporters of Canada.



Eskimo J.C. Sherritt with the CFL's most outstanding defensive player award in November in Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

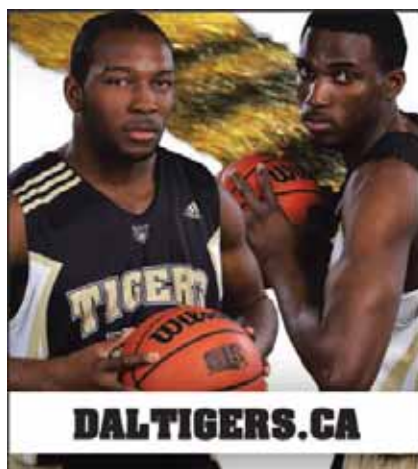
His stats backed up the praise. He made a record-setting 130 defensive tackles in 2012. He also recorded three sacks, three special-teams tackles, three forced fumbles, one fumble recovery, two knockdowns and five interceptions for 56 yards. A nagging ankle injury kept him out of the CFL East semifinal with Toronto, which the Argonauts won 42-26.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Raptors on the rise: Toronto extends win streak to 4 games

Toronto Raptors forward Mickael Pietrus drives to the hoop between Detroit Pistons centre Greg Monroe, left, and forward Jason Maxiell on Wednesday in Toronto. Pietrus scored seven points as the Raptors beat the Pistons 97-91 for their fourth straight win. **FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS**



MEET THE TIGERS...

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Guard
6'2" - 1st YoE

#7
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Forward
6'4" - 4th YoE



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3pm G2 StFX vs Laurier
6pm G3 DAL vs Algoma
8pm G4 ACA vs Laval

Sunday, December 30

Games at 1pm & 3pm/6pm & 8pm

Monday, December 31

Games at 11am/1pm/3pm



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

The Sun joins Mars, your ruler, in the career area of your chart tomorrow, so you will be even more ambitious than usual. Impress those in positions of power but try not to do so at the expense of other people.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You are up for whatever life throws at you and when the Sun changes signs tomorrow, there will be no holding you back. However, after your initial burst of enthusiasm you will need to settle into a steady routine.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

It may at times seem as if the answers are "out there" waiting to be discovered but in reality they are "in here", where facts mean less than feelings. Take time to listen to your inner voice today — it has lots to tell you.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Don't worry too much if you have not been getting along with a certain person of late because you will soon be friends again. You will also find that your opinions were not nearly as far apart as you had previously believed.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You need to get serious about your work and your health. Because everything has been going so well for you of late, you have tended to overlook certain things but now it's time to take care of those boring details.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Do something creative, something that gets you noticed. Everyone was born with an ability of some kind, so focus on your own special talent and make it work for you on all kinds of levels, including financial.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

The next few days are going to be of added importance for family matters. You will certainly find it easier than usual to see the world through loved ones' eyes. Better understanding makes compromise possible.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

However hard you try, you will not change another person's viewpoint. And however hard they try, they will not change yours. So what can you do? You can steer clear of each other as much as is humanely possible.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Over the next few days, your thoughts will turn to what you own, what you earn and, more importantly, how you can start earning more. Get rid of a dozen ideas but the one that remains will make you rich.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

The old solar year is coming to an end and when the Sun moves into your birth sign tomorrow, a new cycle will begin. After the disappointments of recent weeks, it will feel wonderful to know that all things are possible.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Get away for a while. Leave the chaos and confusion of everyday life far behind. Before you go, let someone know that you do not exist to cater to their every whim. You have needs too and they must be satisfied.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Recent cosmic activity has made it possible for you to move up in your work or career. Now you must decide if you are happy with what you accomplished or if you want to go higher still. It's your choice. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

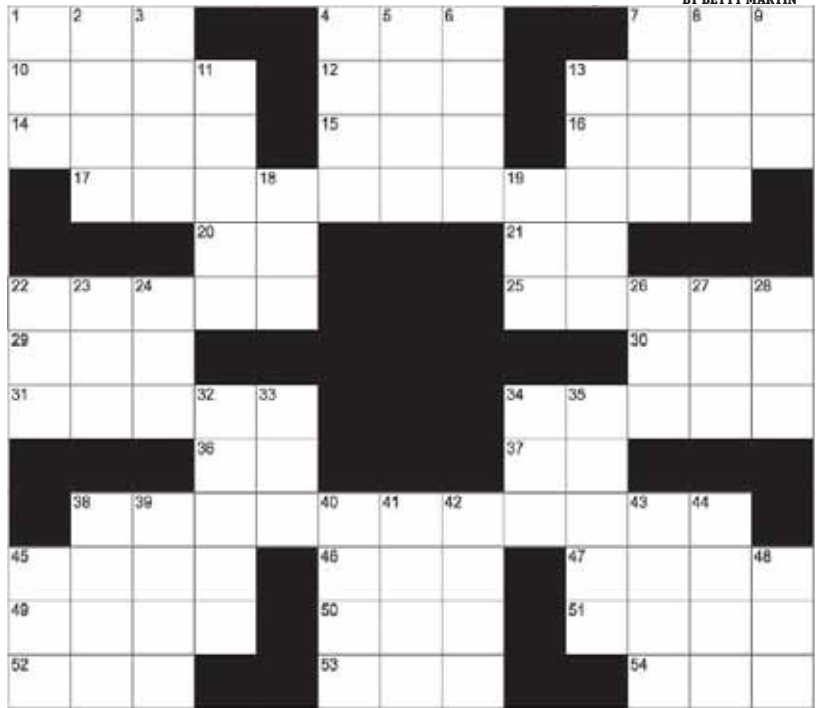
Across

- Vestment
- Keyboard key
- Nickname of comedian Bill
- One not to be trusted
- Havana greeting
- 70's Show
- Thin Man's dog
- Soup container
- Rodents
- Stargazers
- Movie alien
- Egyptian Sun God
- Touched by an Angel actress
- Carry in inventory
- Pester
- "Norma —"
- Tempest
- Beautify
- Battery sz.
- Head out
- Ethel's partner in hijinks
- Pitch
- Gobbled up
- Tiny amount
- Police activity
- Cartoon pooch
- Barbershop sound
- Hill dweller
- CPR specialist
- Opposite of WNW

Down

- Chicken — King
- One of The Simpsons
- Belfry inhabitants
- Filled tortilla
- Star of M*A*S*H
- U2's lead vocalist
- Cinders
- Bran source
- Ave. crossers
- Hotel fees
- Halloween indulgence
- Road abbr.
- Robinson or Doubtfire
- Found in the ER
- Have a bite
- Self
- Gold, to Juan
- My Mother the —
- Olin of thirtysomething
- Participated in a marathon
- Spring mo.

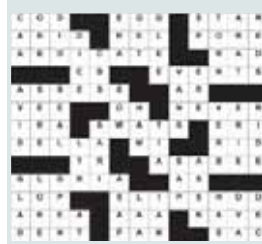
BY BETTY MARTIN



- Turkish title
- Roberts of Everybody Loves Raymond
- Bank transaction
- Kind of price
- Steak order
- Ledger entry
- Penny
- Completed
- Soul singer Redding

- La-la lead-in
- Mimic

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	9	3	4	7	1	2	8
3	8	4	2	1	5	9	7	6
1	7	2	0	6	3	5	4	
5	3	7	1	6	9	8	4	2
9	4	1	5	2	8	6	3	7
8	2	6	4	7	3	5	1	9
7	9	5	6	3	2	4	8	1
2	1	3	8	9	4	7	6	5
4	6	8	7	5	1	2	9	3

	8		6		2		3	
		3	4		1	8		
9								7
		5		1		2		
3								4
		4		3		7		
5								1
		6	8		3	5		
	4		1		9		8	

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2°/-2°
Partly sunny

Friday

3°/2°
Variable

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